

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
SAVANNAH DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
v.)
)
MATTHEW JAMES GORDON)

CASE NO: 4:21-cr-143

PLEA AGREEMENT

Defendant Matthew James Gordon, represented by his counsel Maria Mekras Justus, Esq., and the United States of America, represented by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph McCool, have reached a plea agreement in this case. The terms and conditions of that agreement are as follows.

1. **Guilty Plea**

Defendant, having been advised of the right to be charged by Indictment, agrees to waive that right and enter a plea of guilty to Count One of the Information, which charges a violation of Possession of a Stolen Firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(j).

2. **Elements and Factual Basis**

The elements necessary to prove the offense charged in Count One are (1) that Defendant knowingly possessed a firearm in or affecting commerce; and (2) that the Defendant knew or had reasonable cause to believe the firearm was stolen.

Defendant agrees that he is, in fact, guilty of this offense. He agrees to the

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accuracy of the following facts, which satisfy each of the offense's required elements:
on or about January 17, 2020, in Chatham County, within the Southern District of Georgia, Savannah police officers observed Defendant Matthew James Gordon at Live Oak and East 53rd Streets. After an encounter with police officers at that location, Defendant Gordon was searched and officers recovered a Kahr Arms, Model CW-40, .40 caliber pistol in Defendant Gordon's waistband. The firearm was manufactured in Massachusetts and had been transported in interstate commerce. Defendant Gordon knowingly possessed the firearm, and he knew and had a reasonable cause to believe that the firearm was stolen. All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(j).

3. Possible Sentence

Defendant's guilty plea will subject him to the following maximum possible sentence: 10 years' imprisonment, 3 years' supervised release, a \$250,000 fine, such restitution as may be ordered by the Court, and forfeiture of all forfeitable assets. The Court additionally must impose a \$100 special assessment per count of conviction.

4. No Promised Sentence

No one has promised Defendant that the Court will impose any particular sentence or a sentence within any particular range. The Court is not bound by any estimate of sentence given or recommendations made by Defendant's counsel, the government, the U.S. Probation Office, or anyone else. The Court may impose a sentence up to the statutory maximum. Defendant will not be allowed to withdraw

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his plea of guilty if he receives a more severe sentence than he expects.

5. Court's Use of Guidelines

The Court is obligated to use the United States Sentencing Guidelines to calculate the applicable guideline range for Defendant's offense and to consider that range, possible departures under the Sentencing Guidelines, and other sentencing factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), in determining his sentence. The Sentencing Guidelines are advisory; the Court is not required to impose a sentence within the range those Guidelines suggest. The Sentencing Guidelines are based on all of Defendant's relevant conduct, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3, not just the facts underlying the particular Count to which Defendant is pleading guilty.

6. Agreements Regarding Sentencing Guidelines

a. Acceptance of Responsibility

The government will not object to a recommendation by the U.S. Probation Office that Defendant receive a two-level reduction in offense level for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Section 3E1.1(a) of the Sentencing Guidelines. If the U.S. Probation Office makes that recommendation, and Defendant's offense level is 16 or greater prior to any reduction for acceptance of responsibility, the government will move for an additional one-level reduction in offense level pursuant to Section 3E1.1(b) based on Defendant's timely notification of his intention to enter a guilty plea.

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b. Use of Information

The government is free to provide full and accurate information to the Court and U.S. Probation Office for use in calculating the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range. Any incriminating information provided by the defendant during his cooperation will not be used in determining the applicable Guidelines range, pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 1B1.8.

7. Dismissal of Indictment

At sentencing, the government will move to dismiss the Indictment contained in CR 4:21-78 that charges the Defendant with Possession of a Firearm by a Prohibited Person, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1), and Possession of a Controlled Substance, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 844(a).

8. Forfeiture

Defendant agrees to forfeit his interest in any firearms and ammunition involved or used in the knowing commission of the offense to which he has agreed to plead guilty, specifically a Kahr Arms, Model CW-40, .40 caliber pistol, serial number FE7166 (collectively, the "Subject Property").

9. Financial Obligations and Agreements

a. Special Assessment

Defendant agrees to pay a special assessment in the amount of \$100 (per count), payable to the Clerk of the United States District Court, which shall be due immediately at the time of sentencing.

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b. Required Financial Disclosures

After entry of a guilty plea, Defendant shall complete a financial disclosure form listing all his assets and financial interests, whether held directly or indirectly, solely or jointly, in his name or in the name of another. Defendant shall sign the financial disclosure form under penalty of perjury and provide that form to the Financial Litigation Unit of the United States Attorney's Office and to the United States Probation Office. Defendant authorizes the United States to obtain credit reports on Defendant and to share the contents of those reports with the Court and the United States Probation Office. Defendant also authorizes the United States Attorney's Office to inspect and copy all financial documents and information held by the United States Probation Office.

c. Financial Examination

Defendant will submit to an examination under oath on the issue of his financial disclosures and assets if deemed necessary by the United States. Such examination will occur not later than 30 days after the entry of Defendant's guilty plea.

d. No Transfer of Assets

Defendant certifies that he has made no transfer of assets in contemplations of this prosecution for the purpose of evading or defeating financial obligations created by this Agreement or that may be imposed upon him by the Court at sentencing. Defendant promises that he will make no such transfers in the future.

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e. Material Change in Circumstances

Defendant agrees to notify the United States of any material change in circumstances, as described in 18 U.S.C. § 3664(k), that occurs prior to sentencing in this case. Such notification will be made within seven days of the event giving rise to the changed circumstances, and in no event later than the date of sentencing.

f. Enforcement

Any payment schedule imposed by the Court is without prejudice to the United States to take all actions and remedies available to it to collect the full amount of the financial obligations imposed by the judgment of the Court in this case. Defendant understands and agrees that the financial obligations imposed by the judgment of the Court in this case will be placed on the Treasury Offset Program so that any federal payment that Defendant receives may be offset and applied to the judgment debt without regard to or affecting any payment schedule imposed by the Court.

10. Waivers

a. Waiver of Appeal

Defendant entirely waives his right to a direct appeal of his conviction and sentence on any ground (including any argument that the statute to which the defendant is pleading guilty is unconstitutional or that the admitted conduct does not fall within the scope of the statute). The only exceptions are that the Defendant may file a direct appeal of his sentence if (1) the court enters a sentence above the statutory maximum, (2) the court enters a sentence above the advisory Sentencing Guidelines

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range found to apply by the court at sentencing; or (3) the Government appeals the sentence. Absent those exceptions, Defendant explicitly and irrevocably instructs his attorney not to file an appeal.

b. Waiver of Collateral Attack

Defendant entirely waives his right to collaterally attack his conviction and sentence on any ground and by any method, including but not limited to a 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motion. The only exception is that Defendant may collaterally attack his conviction and sentence based on a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel.

c. FOIA and Privacy Act Waiver

Defendant waives all rights, whether asserted directly or through a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any record pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case under the authority of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. § 552a, and all subsequent amendments thereto.

d. Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(f) and Fed. R. Evid. 410 Waiver

Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence ordinarily limit the admissibility of statements made by a defendant during the course of plea discussions or plea proceedings. Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives the protections of these rules. If Defendant fails to plead guilty, or his plea of guilty is later withdrawn, all of Defendant's statements in connection with this plea, and any leads derived therefrom, shall be admissible for any

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and all purposes.

11. Defendant's Rights

Defendant has the right to be represented by counsel, and if necessary have the court appoint counsel, at trial and at every other critical stage of the proceeding. Defendant possesses a number of rights which he will waive by pleading guilty, including: the right to plead not guilty, or having already so pleaded, to persist in that plea; the right to a jury trial; and the right at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses, to be protected from compelled self-incrimination, to testify and present evidence, and to compel the attendance of witnesses.

12. Satisfaction with Counsel

Defendant has had the benefit of legal counsel in negotiating this agreement. Defendant believes that his attorney has represented him faithfully, skillfully, and diligently, and he is completely satisfied with the legal advice given and the work performed by his attorney.

13. Breach of Plea Agreement

Defendant breaches this agreement if, prior to sentencing in his case, he fails to comply with any of the terms of this agreement, withdraws or attempts to withdraw his guilty plea, refuses to accept responsibility for his criminal conduct, obstructs justice, tampers with witnesses or evidence, or commits any new crimes. If Defendant breaches the plea agreement, the government is released from any agreement herein regarding the calculation of the advisory Sentencing Guidelines or the appropriate

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sentence. Additionally, such a breach by the Defendant will be a breach of his cooperation agreement, thereby allowing the government to use all otherwise proffer-protected information at sentencing. In addition, the government may (1) declare the plea agreement null and void, (2) reinstate any counts that may have been dismissed pursuant to the plea agreement, and/or (3) file new charges against Defendant that might otherwise be barred by this plea agreement. Defendant waives any statute-of-limitations or speedy trial defense to prosecutions reinstated or commenced under this paragraph.

14. Entire Agreement

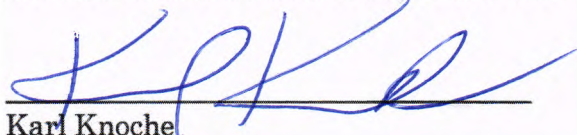
This agreement contains the entire agreement between the government and Defendant.

Signatures are on following page.

Initials: MSMG

Date: 8/5/21

DAVID H. ESTES
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY



Date

Karl Knoche
Chief, Criminal Division
Georgia Bar No. 426624



Date

Joseph McCool
Assistant United States Attorney
Pennsylvania Bar No. 206593

Signatures are on following page.

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Date: 8/5/21

I have read and carefully reviewed this agreement with my attorney. I understand each provision of this agreement, and I voluntarily agree to it. I hereby stipulate that the factual basis set out therein is true and accurate in every respect.

8/5/21
Date

Matthew Gordon
Matthew James Gordon, Defendant

I have fully explained to Defendant all of his rights, and I have carefully reviewed each and every part of this agreement with him. I believe that he fully and completely understands it, and that his decision to enter into this agreement is an informed, intelligent, and voluntary one.

8/5/21
Date

Maria Mekras Justus
Maria Mekras Justus
Defendant's Attorney

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